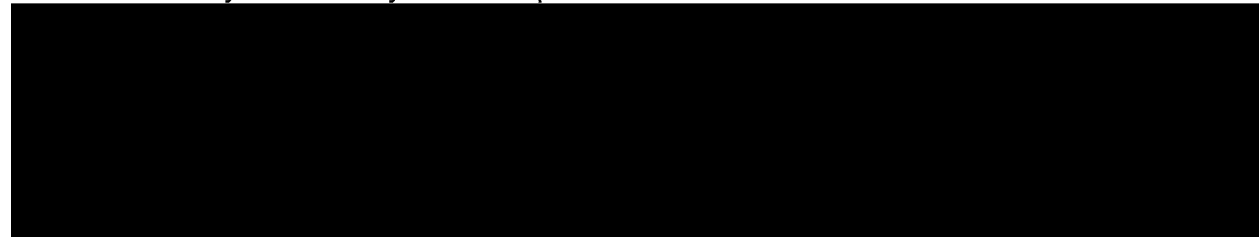


To: Cook, Anna-Marie[Cook.Anna-Marie@epa.gov]; Aycock, Mary[Aycock.Mary@epa.gov]
Cc: Guria, Peter[Guria.Peter@epa.gov]
From: Lawrence, Kathryn
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 4:09:01 PM
Subject: Fw: 8/16 Community Involvement update
[Gadii'ahi chapter meeting 8 16.docx](#)
[R9 CI Update Nenahnezad San Juan Fruitland 08152015.docx](#)
[R9 CI Update Mexican Water 8162015.docx](#)

Kathryn Lawrence
Emergency Prevention and Preparedness
EPA Region 9

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone on the Verizon Wireless 4G LTE network.



Here is the update for community involvement activities from 8/16, as well as the promised information about the meeting from 8/15: (I apologize for the lengthiness, let me know what you need in terms of cutting it down, but I wanted to include information about the meetings)

8/16 update:

Community Involvement Coordinators attended 2 special Chapter meetings. The first was at Mexican Water Chapter at 10am and the second was at Gadii'ahi Chapter at 1pm. More thorough community involvement notes are attached.

Linda Reeves, and ZiZi Searles spoke at the Mexican Water Chapter meeting. The meeting was attended by around 25 community members as well as Chapter officials. The purpose of this meeting was to apologize and provide updates on the emergency response, and listen to community concerns. Topics discussed included:

- an introduction to the ALERT team (chapter level emergency response)
- when access to the river will resume

- impacts to farmers living next to the river
- desire to see more sampling points tested in the vicinity of Mexican water farms, and
- long term risks related to the spill

The Gadii'ahi meeting was attended by around 40 community members, as well as Chapter officials, a Navajo Council Delegate, a BIA representative, and a representative from the New Mexico State Legislature. Community involvement coordinators continued to receive questions and feedback on the following:

- agricultural water needs and impacts
- marketability of crops and livestock due to perception issues
- concerns related to claims forms, especially for long term impacts
- questions about long term impacts and remediation
- concern about lifting the ban

Farmington ICP update:

- Attended Shiprock meeting with Navajo Nation and BIA to discuss increased coordination
- Coordinated with EOC and JIC on trying to get livestock locations on our website
- Coordinated hotline flow and log with JIC
- Continued to coordinate internal communication with R9 EOC, R9 CI in SF, and with JIC through liaison David Yogi
- Provided a list of EPA meetings by Chapter to Navajo Nation (as requested)
- Worked with Weston on livestock watering map to be used by CI field team (subject to JIC approval)

Personnel updates: New folks arrived last night

- Wilson Yee: likely will act as EPA ICP liaison to Shiprock (BIA/NN)
- Alejandro Diaz: Community Involvement field support
- Jamie Rayman: ATSDR Health Educator

8/15 additional update:

Community involvement coordinators completed extensive notes on the very well attended and lengthy 8/15 meeting in Nenahnezad. Please see attached notes for details on comments from speakers and questions from community members. An abbreviated summary is provided below:

Summary: R9 Community Involvement Coordinators Linda Reeves and ZiZi Searles spoke at the Nenahnezad Chapter House to communities invited from the Nenahnezad, San Juan, Hogback, and Upper Fruitland Chapters. The meeting was arranged by the Office of Vice President Jonathan Nez and was attended by 200-250 community members. The meeting set up consisted of a panel of elected officials and personal tasked with responding to the spill. Panel members included:

- Council Delegates Lorenzo Bates (Speaker of Legislative Affairs)
- San Juan County CEO Dr. Kim Carpenter
- New Mexico State Representative Sharon Clahchischilliage
- San Juan County Commission Margaret McDaniels
- Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathan Nez
- Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch

EPA was also part of the panel. Other council Delegates, and elected chapter officials were also present in the audience as well as a Navajo staffer from Senator Udall's office.

The purpose of the meeting was for Navajo public officials to relay efforts to address community concerns regarding San Juan River access to agricultural and livestock water, and for New Mexico officials to explain the science behind the lifting of the ban on the San Juan River.

EPA's role in the meeting was to provide an update on response efforts and to record and address the public and Navajo governments concerns. EPA apologized for causing the spill and read Gina McCarthy's statement to the audience. EPA summarized response efforts to date and announced the release of Region 9 water quality data on the EPA website. We were careful to emphasize that the data collected was being shared with the Navajo government and that it would be the Navajo government that would announce the lifting of the ban once the results showed water quality was safe for non-potable purposes (i.e. farming and livestock).

The first half of the meeting consisted of public officials and emergency response leaders (including EPA) giving public statements on the spill response. The second part of the meeting included comments, questions, and dialogue with the audience. Topics that were discussed included:

- lifting the ban on the San Juan River
- health and safety
- long term impacts
- reflections on jurisdictional issues
- comments on better emergency response coordination for future disasters
- how the spill happened
- prevention of future spills
- the desire to see abandoned mine lands in Colorado become Superfund sites
- the federal government's historic relations with the Navajo people
- SF-Form 95.

More than one press representative attended the event. Our pictures were taken several times by professional photographers present at the event.

Amanda Pease

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Community Involvement Coordinator

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